

WOODBURY COUNTY LIBRARY

MOVILLE, IOWA

March 1, 1952

Miss Elizabeth B. Hage  
Scott County Library  
Eldridge, Iowa

Dear Betty;

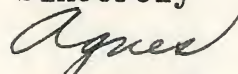
Thank you for your letter of February 9 and especially for the copy of your annual report. Also I must apologize for not writing sooner.

In regard to the Expension Committee, I shall be glad to do my part; whatever thet may be.

We have just had a question come up on our work her; which you may have already faced and solved. That is; if a County Library may serve a Parochial School within its area. The Library is supported by Public Money or Taxes; so perhaps the answer is whether the County Library Law comes under the Education. This is an important question in our County. Unfortunately, when I was in Sioux City, yesterday the County Attorney was busy and I could see only an assistant, who gave no satisfaction, as to whether the County would give us an opinion or get one from the State. However he did suggest that I write to see if other County Libraries in this State had had such a problem. We will appreciate it if you will let us know anything in regard to the above question.

Hope that you aren't getting too disgusted with Woodbury County Library, with all the trouble our friend in Correctionville has made with us, and consequently ~~for~~ the County Libraries in general.

Sincerely



Agnes J. Buskirk  
County Librarian

March 3, 1952

Miss Agnes J. Buskirk, Librarian  
Woodbury County Library  
Menville, Iowa

Dear Agnes,

Believe me, Agnes, no apologies for failure to answer letters promptly are necessary for me - I know just how it goes! So far, there's nothing specific for the Extension Committee to do - just general promotion of rural library service whenever the opportunity arises, and I guess all county librarians are doing that - even in their sleep - when they sleep!

The question of serving or not serving a parochial school has not arisen in Scott County, since there are none in the rural areas. However, I would say that you were certainly within the law to serve them, for the parents of those children going to the parochial schools pay the same taxes for the library support that the parents of the children attending public schools do. I don't believe you'd ever run into any argument because of serving them; but, in my thinking you would be open to criticism if you didn't serve them. The library and school situations are different, I would say. The law says all shall pay taxes for public schools - if people want private schools, that's their business; but they can't use public funds for the private schools. With the library, no one's trying to set up a private one and use the library tax money for it. Every property owner pays taxes for the library and is therefore entitled to service from it - and of course, you can't weed out the non-property owner from the property owner.

Indeed I'm not getting disgusted with the Woodbury County Library. I'm sorry you have to have all the difficulties that you do - and mighty glad and thankful that I don't! Any time I can help - or you think I might be able to let me know. We're pioneering this thing in Iowa and we should try to iron out our problems together.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Hage  
Librarian